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REVIEWS OF RECENT LITERATURE.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

Fouilles a Brassempouy, en 1896.¹—Several notices have appeared during the last three or four years of the discovery of statuettes and other paleolithic remains at Brassempouy in southwestern France. In a recent number of *L'Anthropologie* MM. Piette and Porterie have given a brief description of their explorations in 1896. In the caves were found large quantities of horse, hyena, and other animal bones, etchings of animals, paleolithic implements, and a small but well-executed carving representing the figure of the human female. The statuette is broken and incomplete, and is not quite symmetrical, yet it is a "remarkable object of art," considering the tools with which the ivory was worked. The stone implements and weapons are similar to those of Cro-Magnon and Gorge-d'Enfer, and those who made them probably belonged to the "Dordogne School of Art" of glacial times.

FRANK RUSSELL.

The Ethnology of Funafuti.²—During the summer of 1896 Mr. Charles Hedley, of the "Funafuti Coral Reef Boring Expedition," collected a number of ethnological specimens from the Atoll of Funafuti. Brief descriptions of these with accompanying figures are given, together with numerous references to the literature relating to Polynesia. The author says in his introduction: "On glancing over the ground covered by the following paper my predominant impressions are: firstly, the poverty of our knowledge of Polynesian Ethnology, and the superficial way in which it has been studied; and, secondly, the rapidity with which the knowledge of it that might yet be gathered is vanishing." This warning has been given by many writers and in relation to many other lands as well. We believe that for some time to come those who have an opportunity to study these peoples

¹Études d'Ethnographie préhistorique; Fouilles à Brassempouy, en 1896. Ed. Piette and J. de la Porterie. *L'Anthropologie*, T. viii, pp. 165-173.

²The Atoll of Funafuti, Ellice Group. Charles Hedley, Australian Museum, Sidney, *Memoir III*, Pt. iv, pp. 229-304.

can occupy themselves much more profitably with the examination of physical characters than in the elaboration of theories of origin and of migrations. The scanty somatological data furnished in this paper show that the Funafutti natives are a brachycephalic (index 82.5) race of medium stature (M 1.67). Mr. Hedley's descriptions of their technic arts are clearly and concisely written, and form a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the culture of Oceania.

FRANK RUSSELL.

The Mounds of Louisiana.¹—In a paper of twenty pages Professor Beyer has described his explorations among the mounds of north-eastern Louisiana. Several skeletons were found, but in such a fragile condition that they could not be preserved. An attempt is made to establish the cranial type from four measurements taken upon five more or less fragmentary skulls, and to prove its southern affinities by comparison with a single Carib skull! With equal success we have recently compared the three principal diameters of the brain case of a series of thirty-three Eskimos with the fifty blacks from Torres Straits, described by Flower! The pre-Columbian type is presumably depicted in the two unnumbered plates entitled "Larto skull" and "Larto skull restored." If this skull were properly oriented, say, about forty-five degrees forward, the "type" would be transformed into an ordinary Indian cranium.

A few specimens of pottery were found, one of which is ornamented with an artistic design containing the Maltese cross and the swastika; that it is "entirely too fine in execution to be ascribed to our North American Indians" is an error manifest to any one at all familiar with American ceramics.

FRANK RUSSELL.

ZOÖLOGY.

The Segmentation of the Head.—This perennial problem has been attacked again by Dr. H. V. Neal,² who has based his work upon the early stages of the common dogfish of the New England

¹ Beyer, Prof. George E. *Publications of the Louisiana Historical Society*. New Orleans, La., 1898.

² The Segmentation of the Nervous System in *Squalus Acanthias*. *Bulletin Mus. Comp. Zool.*, vol. xxxi, No. 7, 1898.